

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-11

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7656

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, NU, XK

SUBJECT: JURICH TEXTILE CONSULTATIONS

REF: SAN JOSE 2617

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED RECENT CONSULTATIONS ON TEXTILE EXPORTATION HELD IN MANAGUA WITH MARIA LOURDES QUIRCE OF COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT'S EXPORT PROMOTION CENTER AND WITH LEADING TEXTILE MANUFACTURER RODRIGO BARZUNA. BOTH APPEARED TO BE PLEASED WITH CONSULTATIONS, DESCRIBING THEM AS CORDIAL, FRANK, AND INFORMATIVE.

2. COSTA RICA'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY, UNLIKE THOSE IN OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, IS ENGAGED PRIMARILY IN EXPORTING CLOTHING TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER DRAWBACK ARRANGEMENTS. BOTH BARZUNA AND QUIRCE ESTIMATED THAT DRAWBACK EXPORTS OF SYNTHETIC AND COTTON GOODS WILL REACH 20 MILLION YARDS BY THE END OF 1974. THIS IS UP FROM SOME 11 OR 12 MILLION AT THE END OF 1973. BARZUNA BELIEVES THAT COSTA RICA IS CAPABLE OF DOUBLING THE 1974 FIGURE TO 40 MILLION YARDS BY THE END OF 1975 AND FURTHER INCREASING EXPORTS TO 50 MILLION IN 1976.

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3. WITH REGARD TO FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR COSTA RICAN ADHERENCE TO EITHER A NEW BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT OR TO THE MULTILATERAL MULTIFIBER AGREEMENT, BARZUNA STATED THAT, WHILE HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE TO COSTA RICA'S BENEFIT TO ENTER INTO A BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT, THE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT APPEARED TO BE MORE ATTRACTIVE SINCE, FOR ONE THING, IT SEEMED TO OFFER GREATER PROTECTION TO EXPORTING COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT. MARZUNA SEEMS TO BE VERY WELL BRIEFED ON DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AFFECTING U.S. TEXTILE IMPORTS. HE STATED THAT IN HIS OPINION THE COSTA RICAN INDUSTRY IS BETTER OFF TAKING ITS CHANCES WITH UNILATERAL RESTRAINTS THAN IT WOULD BE IF IT ENTERED INTO A BILATERAL AT THIS TIME, I.E. BEFORE ANTICIPATED INCREASES IN PRODUCTION ARE FULLFILLED. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD BE BRIEFING FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO ON THE MANAGUA MEETING. WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD RECOMMEND IN FAVOR OF COSTA RICA'S ENTERING INTO THE NEW MULTILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT, HE STATED THAT FACIO HAS REALLY BEEN THE "GODFATHER" ON TEXTILES, THUS SEEMING TO INFER THAT FACIO WOULD PROBABLY MAKE SUCH A DECISION ON HIS OWN. HOWEVER, HE REITERATED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, COSTA RICA COULD PROBABLY SIGN THE MULTILATERAL BUT NOT BEFORE AT LEAST ONE YEAR HAD PASSED AND ANTICIPATED PRODUCTION INCREASES WERE ACCOMPLISHED.  
LANE

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## Message Attributes

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